



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Office of Planning and Partnerships

Community Relations Division

Staff Bios & Contact Information

Kathleen Matthews, MPH Director of the Office of Planning and Partnerships at the Colorado Department of Public Health. Prior to this she was assistant director and planning coordinator for the Colorado School of Public Health Initiative. Her over thirty years of public health experience has been in numerous areas (HIV/AIDS, injury prevention, heart health, college health, immunizations) and settings (local and state health departments, a federal agency, and community-based non-profits). She was director of the Masters of Public Health and Masters of Healthcare Systems programs at the University of Denver, and taught courses in community and behavioral health. Other positions have included public health consultant for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Region VIII, Director of Health Education at the University of Minnesota, Director of Education for the Minnesota AIDS Project, and planner for the Hennepin County Health Department. She received her Masters of Public Health from the University Of Minnesota School Of Public Health.

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Sharon Adams, REHS, an Environmental Health Planner joined the Office of Planning and Partnerships in early April 2011. Previously, Sharon directed the environmental health division of the local public health agency in Boone County, Indiana. With 14 years of service, she had opportunity to promote, plan, and implement a broad range of environmental health programs. Her work activities were supplemented with participation in the Indiana Environmental Health Association where she chaired the General Environmental Services Committee. Sharon serves as liaison between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local public health agencies to assist with environmental health assessments and planning.

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Heather Baumgartner, Assessment and Planning Manager, is responsible for continuing the collaborative development of Colorado's statewide planning and assessment system. Heather will oversee coordination of the 2014 Colorado Public Health Improvement Plan; grants to support local public health agency assessment and planning efforts; the technical assistance system of regional public health planners; and implementation and maintenance of the Colorado Health Assessment and Planning System. Nearly 15 years in public health, she has contributed in both the public and nonprofit sectors with a background in social sciences and public administration. Most recently Heather oversaw development of the Healthy Communities Unit within the Prevention Services Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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Tsering K. Dorjee, a Public Health Nurse Consultant with Office of Planning and Partnerships, brings experience in health based program development, implementation and evaluation. Hired in April of 2009, she has worked as a public health nurse for the Boston Public Health Commission and the Baltimore City Health Department. Tsering is board certified as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in Public Health Nursing. She will work closely with the Public Health Act by assisting counties in eastern region of Colorado to develop their local health agencies and public health plans. Tsering graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Nursing in 2005. She completed her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Creighton University in 1998.

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Kate Lujan, a Public Health Nurse Consultant with the Office of Planning and Partnerships and Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, has worked in local and state public health for over 25 years. Kate was hired in 2002 as a disease control epidemiologist for the western slope, and accepted additional public health nurse consulting duties for the Office of Planning and Partnership in February 2011. As a public health nurse consultant, Kate will provide technical guidance and serve as a liaison to local agencies. Kate completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1985 and relocated to Colorado working for Eagle County and later Garfield County. Kate earned her Masters of Public Health from the University of Northern Colorado in 2003.

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Katy Rice has been the Office of Planning and Partnerships Program Assistant since August 2008. She has been at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since 2004 and worked previously in the Survey Research Unit. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University. Katy is working part-time as she attends nursing school.

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Shannon Rossiter, JD, MPH, Public Health Planner of the Office of Planning and Partnerships brings legal training along with experience in epidemiology, and health education. In addition to her experience at CDPHE, Shannon has worked in public health for various agencies, including the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Shannon is looking forward to partnering with staff at CDPHE, and in the local health departments in the implementation of the 2008 Public Health Improvement Act. Shannon graduated from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health in 1999, and from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law with a JD in 2010.

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